

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION--MOROCCAN PRESS REPRINTS INTERVIEW WITH
BEGIN

SUMMARY. BOTH MOROCCAN SEMI-OFFICIAL FRENCH LANGUAGE
DAILIES--MORNING LE MATIN AND EVENING MAROC SOIR--SEPT. 9
REPRINT FULL TEXT OF FRANCE SOIR INTERVIEW OF ISRAELI
PRIME MINISTER BEGIN BY PAUL WINKLER. THE DECISION TO
REPRODUCE THE FULL TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE ISRAELI
LEADER, RATHER THAN THOSE EXCERPTS MOST OUTRAGEOUS TO
ARAB OPINION IS VIRUTALLY UNPRECEDENTED ON THE PART OF
THE MOROCCAN PRESS IN RECENT TIMES, AND REFLECTS KING
HASSAN'S POLICY OF KEEPING LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN
TO ALL PARTIES IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT. END SUMMARY.

1. BOTH SEMI-OFFICIAL FRENCH LANGUAGE PAPERS SEPT. 9
BEGAN A TWO-PART REPRINT OF THE FULL TEXT OF AN INTERVIEW
BY ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MANAHEM BEGIN WHICH APPEARED IN
THE PARIS MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY FRANCE SOIR. BOTH
PAPERS CARRY FRONT-PAGE EXPLANATIONS OF THEIR REASONS
FOR THE CHOICE. LE MATIN SAYS (UNDER PHOTO OF BEGIN):

"ALTHOUGH HE OPPOSES THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN

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HOMELAND ON ISRAEL'S BORDERS--ALTHOUGH HE OPPOSES FULL
RESTORATION OF TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967--THE HEAD OF
THE LIKUD, KNOWN FOR HIS EXTREMIST VIEWS, TALKS OF
PEACE." FURTHER, THE PAPER SAYS, HE BELIEVES IN IT
FIRMLY AND EVEN SUBSCRIBES TO THE POINT OF VIEW
EXPRESSED BY HIS MAJESTY HASSAN II ON THE REVOLU-
TIONARY ALLIANCE OF THE ARAB AND JEWISH GENIUS, ONCE

THESE TWO ARE UNITED ON THE SAME TRACK TOWARD A REBIRTH OF THIS IMPORTANT REGION. FOR ITS PART, MAROC SOIR IS LESS SANGUINE AND EXPRESSES PESSIMISM OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF A RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, GIVEN THE INTRANSIGENCE OF THE BEGIN POSITION TOWARD THE PALESTINIANS EXPRESSED IN THE INTERVIEW. NEVERTHELESS, IN TALKING OF PEACE, HE INTRODUCES LANGUAGE "BOTH SURPRISING AND CONTRADICTORY, WHICH IS A NEW ELEMENT."

2. WHILE MUCH OF INTERVIEW IS DEVOTED TO REITERATION OF WELL-KNOWN BEGIN VIEW OF THE PLO AND ARAB MILITARY THREAT TO ISAREL, ITEM OF GREATEST INTEREST TO MOROCCAN PRESS IS BEGIN'S QUOTE OF KING'S DECLARATION CONCERNING "ARAB-JEWISH GENIUS" AND HIS CONVICTION THAT AN EVENTUAL CONVERGENCE OF ARAB AND ISRAELI POINTS OF VIEW IS INEVITABLE.

3. COMMENT. THE DIRECTOR OF BOTH PAPERS, MOULAY AHMED ALAOU, IS A RELATIVE AND CONFIDANT OF KING HASSAN II. THE PAPERS ARE CONSIDERED TO REFLECT GOM POLICY. IT IS UNUSUAL NOT ONLY THAT THEY WOULD GIVE SUCH FULL EXPRESSION TO THE ISRAELI POSITION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME, OF COURSE, REITERATING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE; BUT ALSO FOR THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO THE KING'S CONVICTION THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION BETWEEN JEW AND ARAB IN THE MIDDLE EAST WILL EVENTUALLY SUPPLANT CONFLICT.
RENTSCHLER

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Message Attributes

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